



Winter and West Nile Virus

Cold weather means mosquito season is over! But don't start cheering just yet...

...people in Fairfax County need to stay one step ahead of the mosquitoes and West Nile virus.

Recent studies have shown that in our part of the country, hibernating mosquitoes (also called "overwintering" mosquitoes) harbor West Nile virus, which can mean an early transmission of West Nile virus to birds, horses and people next spring.

These cool winter months are the perfect time to eliminate next spring's potential mosquito breeding sites. Follow the simple steps below to prepare your home for freezing winter temperatures and next spring's mosquito season:

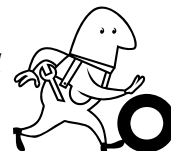


Clean Rain Gutters

Clean out leaves and debris from your gutters frequently. Wet leaves provide nutrients and protection for mosquito larvae.

Recycle Old Tires

Recycle tires or store them where they won't collect rainwater. For playground use, drill water drainage holes. Call 703-324-5230 for tire disposal information.



Rake Leaves

Leaves left in your yard will decompose and become food for mosquito larvae in the spring.

Fill Holes and Yard Depressions

Those puddles of water in your yard make great mosquito breeding sites!



For more information about mosquitoes and West Nile virus in Fairfax County, visit our Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fightthebite or call 703-246-2300.

Fairfax County Health Department
Division of Environmental Health
West Nile Virus/Mosquito Management Program
703-246-2300, TTY 703-591-6435